



## Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

**FORSYTH COUNTY CHAIR EXERCISE OF  
EMERGENCY POWERS PURSUANT TO A DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
ISSUED MARCH 18, 2020**

**Date: March 20, 2020**

Pursuant to that authority vested in me by Chapter 26 of the Forsyth County Code of Enforces, as well as the Declaration(s) of Statewide Emergency and Local Emergency issued to address the COVID-19 pandemic, I hereby find that:

\_\_\_\_ Temporary suspension of the following ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules or regulations of Forsyth County pertaining to the conduct of county business is necessary, as strict compliance with same prevents, hinders, and delays necessary action in coping the COVID-19 emergency;

Taking the following action will promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population:

**URGENT DECLARATION REGARDING GATHERINGS**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States government has declared, effective March 16, 2020, that all events of 10+ people should be cancelled or held virtually. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has likewise recommended that gatherings of over 10 persons be cancelled for the next eight weeks and that social distancing protocols be observed. Many communities are banning public assemblies and gatherings as a means of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Forsyth County is not banning assemblies. However, based upon federal and state recommendations against public assemblies and gatherings, an urgent local statement is needed on this issue.
- It is the case that a person infected with the COVID-19 virus may not demonstrate symptoms but may otherwise be contagious.
- In light of the above, the Chair finds and declares that all Forsyth County citizens and residents are requested, in the most urgent terms, to avoid holding, sponsoring, or attending non-mandatory assemblies or gatherings of 10 or more individuals for so long as Forsyth County remains in a state of locally declared emergency.
- The Chair finds and declares that continuing to hold, sponsor or participate in non-mandatory assemblies or gatherings of 10 or more individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic places those in attendance at risk of becoming infected, transporting the illness to their homes and communities, lead to the transmission of the disease throughout Forsyth County, the State, and country, and otherwise cause the disease to spread to those with compromised immune systems, the elderly, or others that may be uniquely susceptible to its effects.

So Declared, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Laura Semanson, Chair  
Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

cc: Forsyth County Board of Commissioners  
Eric Johnson, Forsyth County Manager  
Tim Merritt, Deputy Forsyth County Manager  
Garrin Coleman, Ass't Forsyth County Manager  
Pat Carson, Director of Personnel Services  
Charity Clark, Risk Manager  
Ron Freeman, Forsyth County Sheriff  
Rhonda Hansard, Forsyth County Clerk  
Ken Jarrard, Forsyth County Attorney

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COUNTY MANAGER  
TIM MERRITT  
DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER